Applicant: Braud et al.
Application No.: 09/555,555

IN THE CLAIMS

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A method of testing a compound for biological activity, which method comprises:

(i) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from the group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, ~~NKG2D~~, NKG2E, and NKG2F at the cell surface;

(ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of the test compound; and

(iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a stimulatory NK cell receptor.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[33]] 32, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2A.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2C.

38-45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously presented) A method of identifying a compound affecting the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, which method comprises:

(i) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor at the cell surface, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from a group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, and NKG2F;

(ii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of a test compound; and

(iii) determining whether the presence of the compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising using an identified compound in a medical diagnostic procedure, wherein the identified compound is an anti-CD94 or anti-NKG2A antibody.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising using a compound that has been determined to affect the binding of HLA-E to the cells in a medical diagnostic procedure, wherein the compound is an anti-CD94 or anti-NKG2A antibody.

50. (Currently amended) A method for producing an identified compound which affects the binding of HLA-E to CD94/NKG2 receptors, which method comprises:

(i) selecting a test compound for screening;

(ii) providing cells expressing a CD94/NKG2 receptor at the cell surface, wherein the NKG2 member is selected from a group consisting of NKG2A, NKG2B, NKG2C, NKG2E, and NKG2F;

(iii) contacting the cells with HLA-E in the presence of the test compound;

(iv) ~~identifying any test compound that affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells~~ determining whether the presence of the test compound affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells; and

(v) producing the identified compound which affects the binding of HLA-E to the cells.

51. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2B.

52. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2E.

53. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2F.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, further comprising using the identified compounds in therapeutic applications, wherein the identified compounds are antibodies.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is a stimulatory NK cell receptor.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the NKG2

member is NKG2A.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2C.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is an inhibitory NK cell receptor.

60. (Currently amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the CD94/NKG2 receptor is [[an]] a stimulatory NK cell receptor.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2A.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the NKG2 member is NKG2C.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the test compound is an antibody.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the test

compound is an antibody.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the test compound is an antibody.